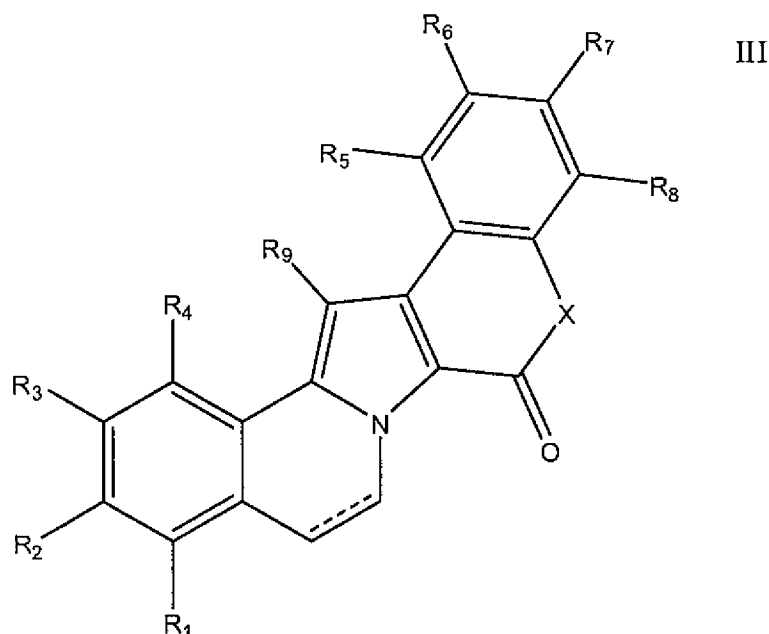


AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 7 through page 8, line 11 (paragraph [0023] as published in US 2006/0173030) with the following:

The present invention is directed to compounds of the general formula III:



wherein X is selected from the group consisting of N, O and S; wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈ and R₉ are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, OR', SH, SR', SOR', SO₂R', NHR', N(R')₂, N=R', NHCOR', N(COR')₂, NHSO₂R', NO₂, PO(R')₂, PO₂R', C(=O)H, C(=O)R', CO₂H, CO₂R', OPO(R')₂, OPO₂R', OC(=O)H, OC(=O)R', N=C(R')₂, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₂ haloalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₂ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl and substituted or unsubstituted heteroaromatic; wherein each of the R' groups is independently selected from the group consisting of H, OH, NO₂, NH₂, SH, CN, halogen, =O, C(=O)H, C(=O)CH₃, CO₂H,

C(=O)R', substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₈ alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₈ alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkoxyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ aminoalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ aminoacid, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ thioalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkylsulfinyl, substituted or unsubstituted C₁-C₁₈ alkylsulfonyl; wherein the pairs of groups R₁ and R₂, R₂ and R₃, R₃ and R₄, R₃ and R₉, R₄ and R₉, R₉ and R₅, R₉ and R₆, or R₆ and R₇, R₇ and R₅ may be joined into a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system; and the dotted line represents ~~an single~~ a single or double bond; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, derivative, prodrug or stereoisomer thereof.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 13 through page 8, line 21 (paragraph [0024] as published in US 2006/0173030) with the following:

We exclude compounds that are known lamellarins, especially known lamellarins described in the literature acknowledged in the present introduction, and more especially lamellarins A-N and S-Z or lamellarins α or β , as well as lamellarin D, K, L, M or N triacetate, lamellarin G trimethyl ether and compounds in WO 9850365. In this respect, we explicitly incorporate by specific reference each of the prior art documents mentioned in the present introduction, particularly for any disclosure of a known compound which needs to be excluded from the ~~represent~~ present claims.

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, line 7 through page 19, line 13 (paragraph [0054] as published in US 2006/0173030) with the following:

Alkylidene groups may be branched or unbranched and preferably have from 1 to 12 ~~carbon~~ carbon atoms. One more preferred class of alkylidene groups has from 1 to about 8 carbon atoms, yet more preferably from 1 to about 6 carbon atoms, and most preferably 1, 2, 3 or 4 carbon atoms. Methylidene, ethylidene and propylidene including isopropylidene are particularly preferred alkylidene groups in the compounds of the present invention.